

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 11, 2003. Claims 20, 26, 36, 39, 41, 44, and 46-48 are presented for examination, of which Claims 20, 26, and 46 are in independent form. Claims 40 and 45 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 46-48 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 20, 26, 36, 39, 41, and 44 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner objected to Claims 36, 39, 40, 41, 44, and 45, stating that "a communication system/method" on line 1 is vague and indefinite. Cancellation of Claims 40 and 45 renders their objections moot. Without conceding the propriety of the objections, Applicants have amended Claims 36, 39, 41, and 44 to change "A" to --The--, which is believed to render the claims sufficiently clear and definite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 20, 26, 36, 40, 41, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,567,177 B2 (Matsuyama) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,223,211 B1 (Hamilton et al.), and rejected Claims 39 and 44 as being unpatentable over Matsuyama in view of Hamilton and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,883,621 (Iwamura). Cancellation of Claims 40 and 45 renders their rejections moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the other rejections and submit that amended independent Claims 20 and 26, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for

at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 20 is directed to a communication system that includes a source node; one or more destination nodes, each of which includes a receiving buffer; and a controller adapted to set a logical connection therebetween. The system is arranged so that the source node is adapted to divide data to be transmitted to the one or more destination nodes into a plurality of segment data, and transfer each segment data with information for identifying the logical connection to each of the one or more destination nodes. Each of the one or more destination nodes is adapted to store the segment data in the receiving buffer.

Among the notable features of Claim 20 are that the source node is adapted to divide data to be transmitted to the one or more destination nodes into a plurality of segment data, and that the source node is adapted to transfer each segment data with information for identifying the logical connection to each of the one or more destination nodes.

Matsuyama relates to a printing system that reduces the data-transfer load of a network to which the system belongs. The Office Action states (and Applicants agree) that "Matsuyama does not disclose [that] the transmitted segment data has address information relating to a portion of the receiving buffer to a destination node."

Hamilton, as understood by Applicants, relates to an apparatus and a computer-implemented process for providing real-time multimedia data transport in a distributed computing system. The Office Action states that Hamilton discloses "... in Fig. 2, [that] a client 50 transmits audio/video clips (segment data) to a server 40."

Applicants submit that any permissible combination of Matsuyama and Hamilton would fail to teach or suggest a communication system that includes the feature of a source node that is adapted to divide data to be transmitted to the one or more destination nodes into a plurality of segment data, and a source node adapted to transfer each segment data with information for identifying the logical connection to each of the one or more destination nodes. Accordingly, Applicants submit that at least for these reasons, Claim 20 is patentable over Matsuyama and Hamilton, considered individually or in any proper combination.

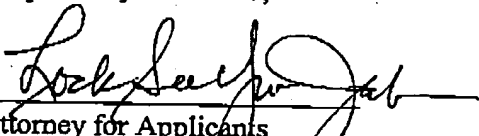
Independent Claim 26 and new independent Claim 46 include the same features of dividing data and transferring each segment data as discussed above in connection with Claim 20. Accordingly, Claims 26 and 46 also are believed to be patentable for at least the above reasons. Further, the other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and therefore are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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